

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 INT-08 SCEM-02 CIEP-02 CEA-02

STR-08 DRC-01 CCO-00 /170 W
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O R 200902Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8312

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15185

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, OECD, JA

SUBJ: OIL COMPANY DELIVERIES TO JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 15158

1. REPORT OF MINISTER NAKASONE'S MEETING WITH
FOREIGN OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES REFERRED TO IN LAST
PARAGRAPH REFTEL HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED BY ECONCOM/MIN.
PRESENT AT MEETING WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF GULF, MOBIL,
TOTAL, CALTEX, B/P, SHELL AND EXXON.

2. NAKASONE REFERRED TO DIFFICULT ECONOMIC POSITION IN
WHICH JAPAN FINDS ITSELF DUE TO OIL CUTS. HE STATED THAT
AS FAR AS HE KNOWS, JAPAN IS ONLY MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY
THAT HAS CURTAILED INDUSTRIAL USAGE INTIMATING THAT
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JAPANESE POSITION IS MORE SERIOUS THAN THAT FACED BY

OTHER MAJOR CONSUMERS. NAKASONE POINTEDLY NOTED THAT GOJ HAS IN PAST TREATED FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES IN NON-DISCRIMINATORY FASHION AND THAT IN FACT LAST ALLOCATION OF NEW REFINING CAPACITY ACTUALLY PROVIDED FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES WITH "MORE THAN THEIR FAIR SHARE." HE STATED THAT MORE THAN HALF OF JAPAN'S OIL COMES FROM IRAN AND INDONESIA AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MAJOR COMPANIES WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW "EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT" IN DETERMINING DISTRIBUTION OF THAT OIL. EXXON REPRESENTATIVE WAS SPECIFICALLY ASKED WHETHER IRANIAN CRUDE THAT JAPAN COULD EXPECT WAS BEING DIVERTED FROM JAPAN. EXXON REPRESENTATIVE REPLIED THAT AS OF THIS TIME DELIVERY "ACCORDING NORMAL SUPPLY PATTERNS" WAS BEING FOLLOWED BY HIS COMPANY ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE WHAT THE FUTURE WOULD BRING.

3. NAKASONE ALSO INDICATED THAT GOJ CONCERNED ABOUT SHARP PRICE INCREASES IN OIL PRODUCTS GENERALLY BUT PARTICULARLY IN KEROSENE. SHARP PRICE RISE IN LATTER COMMODITY WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT POLITICALLY FOR GOJ.

4. NAKASONE ASKED THAT GOJ VIEWS BE TRANSMITTED TO HEADQUARTERS OF VARIOUS COMPANIES SINCE HE WAS AWARE THAT DECISIONS RE ALLOCATIONS WERE NOT BEING MADE IN JAPAN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO15185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731121/aaaaapjf.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 15158
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Nov-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <10-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OIL COMPANY DELIVERIES TO JAPAN
TAGS: ENRG, JA, OECD, EXXON
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005